

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Harrodsburg Commercial District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Multiple---see continuation sheet.

CITY, TOWN

Harrodsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

COUNTY

Mercer

CODE

167**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple---see continuation sheet.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mercer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Harrodsburg

STATE

Kentucky**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSKentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☒ GOOD

☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harrodsburg Commercial District consists of the three blocks of South Main Street from Lexington Avenue to the merger of Beaumont and Moreland Avenues, the south side of the 100 block of West Poplar Street, and the north side of Short Street. This area comprises the core of the town's late nineteenth century commercial architecture. With a population of approximately 6700, Harrodsburg is the seat of government for Mercer County located in the south-central portion of the Bluegrass. Thirty miles to the north is the state capital of Frankfort and Lexington--the only metropolitan center in the Bluegrass--is thirty miles northeast. Mercer is primarily an agricultural county; however, tourism now plays an important role in the economy. Two blocks west of the district is Fort Harrod State Park, a reconstructed log stockade depicting the first permanent settlement in Kentucky. The restored Shaker village at Pleasant Hill is ten miles east of Harrodsburg, and south of the business district is the Beaumont Inn, formerly a well-known nineteenth century women's college which now offers meals and lodging to tourists in the area.

The district is bounded on the east and south by residential areas while to the immediate north and west is varied commercial development with a few residences interspersed. Two blocks west of Main Street is U.S. 127, the major north-south thoroughfare, which has become Harrodsburg's commercial strip. Lexington Avenue (U.S. 68), leading to Shakertown and Lexington, serves as the main east-west artery. Thus, the heaviest flow of traffic is now diverted away from the historic commercial district.

Although ranging from the second quarter of the nineteenth century through 1928, the greatest percentage of the buildings were constructed during the last two decades of the nineteenth century and are two-and three-story brick structures. Of the 58 buildings included within the district boundaries, only seven are considered intrusions and two are deemed non-historic contributing. Intrusions are: the Harrodsburg Baptist Church parking garage, State Bank and Trust Company, Mercer Federal Savings and Loan, No. 204 South Main Street, Mercer County National Bank, No. 109 and No. 121 Short Street. Contributing contemporary structures include the Harrodsburg Baptist Church and No. 118 West Poplar Street (St. Philips Child Care Center).

The east side of the 100 block of South Main is a densely built row of two-and three-story brick buildings dating from the 1880s and 1890s (see photo 1). The Livery Stable (see photo 2) constructed in 1884 is the highlight of the block, being a 2½-story Romanesque style structure with a wide stone-faced central bay. Paired rounded-arch windows flanked by straight-headed windows, all with rough stone sills and lintels, pierce the second story of the brick facade. Narrow brick pilasters containing the construction date delineate the bays and a corbelled cornice complete the building. The first four buildings in the northern end of the block (see photo 3) display projecting bracketed and dentilled cornices and elaborate

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Representing the core of the business section of Kentucky's oldest town, the Harrodsburg Commercial District comprises a noteworthy concentration of well-preserved late nineteenth century commercial architecture. This distinguished collection of buildings produces a streetscape which evokes an ambience that is clearly distinct from the rest of Harrodsburg. As such, the commercial district ranks among the best examples of its type in the central Kentucky region.

With the 'erection' of Colonel James Harrod's fort in 1774, Harrodsburg became Kentucky's first permanent settlement. Mercer County was subsequently created out of Lincoln County in 1785 and named for Revolutionary War General Hugh Mercer. Historically agricultural, the county's major crops throughout the nineteenth century were wheat, oats, corn, hemp, and tobacco. The Kentucky and Dix Rivers form the eastern and northeastern boundaries, and numerous streams and springs flow through the county. The Harrodsburg Springs were developed by Dr. Christopher C. Graham in 1820 and flourished until 1853 as one of numerous such popular summer resorts in the South.

Harrodsburg developed eastward from the initial log fortification erected by James Harrod and his followers. Chiles Street which is one block west of Main Street became the first "main street" with the completion of Morgan Row ca. 1814 (listed in the National Register 16 February 1973). Built by Joseph Morgan, the row houses became the focal point of social and business activity in Harrodsburg during the early 1800s when Morgan's son-in-law, John G. Chiles, operated a tavern in one of the buildings.

Tradition states that present-day Main Street evolved as the commercial center with the establishment of a tavern on the northwest corner of Main and Lexington Avenue which competed with Chiles' tavern and offered a stopping place for those proceeding on up the Main Street hill. The Wingfield Tavern at the northwest corner of Main and Poplar was a local landmark throughout the better part of the nineteenth century until it was razed in 1882 for the Mercer National Bank. These two establishments and the courthouse further south on Main across from Morgan Row appear to have been among the first structures erected on Main. They were followed by numerous frame and some brick buildings.

Harrodsburg experienced several fires between 1880 and 1890, and consequently, most of the existing buildings date from the late '80s to mid '90s. Three

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chinn, George M. Through Two Hundred Years. Harrodsburg, Kentucky: Mercer County Humane Society, 1974.

Harrodsburg Baptist Church (pamphlet). n.p., n.d.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Harrodsburg Herald. Bicentennial Edition, June 1974.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 16 acres.

QUADRANGLE NAME Harrodsburg, Kentucky

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 6 6, 9, 0 0, 9, 0 4, 1 8, 1 4, 2, 0

B 1, 6 6, 9, 0 0, 6, 0 4, 1 8, 0 9, 9, 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1, 6 6, 8, 9 8, 6, 0 4, 1 8, 1 0, 0, 0

D 1, 6 6, 8, 9 8, 8, 0 4, 1 8, 1 4, 3, 0

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boundaries are marked in red on Property Identification Maps.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charlotte Schneider/Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

December 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL ✓

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-8-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/3/80

ATTEST:

W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/2/80

Kristin O'Connell
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all addresses are Harrodsburg, Kentucky 40330.

Property	Owner	Address
118 W. Poplar St.	St. Philip's Episcopal Church	118 W. Poplar
111-113 Short Street	State Bank & Trust Company	211 S. Main
115-119 Short Street	Mr. David A. Taylor	119 Short
121 Short Street	Mrs. Klyta Sims	121 Short
123-25 Short Street	Mrs. Errol Draffen	123 Short
127 Short Street	Ms. Sarah McGee	127 Short
St. Philip's Episcopal Church	c/o Reverend Chester W. King	131 Short
104-106 W. Poplar	Mr. Frank Bradshaw	106 W. Poplar
108 W. Poplar	H. T. Milburn	Rt. 3A Springfield, Ky.
116 W. Poplar	Mr. Raymond Watts	116 W. Poplar
110 W. Poplar (City Hall)	City of Harrodsburg, c/o Hon. Charles W. Carr	110 W. Poplar
102 S. Main	Mr. C. C. Houser	102 S. Main
104-106 S. Main	Mr. Hanley Ruby	29 E. Madison Street, Chicago, Ill. 60602
108 S. Main	Lula Parks	27 Mentalla Pk. Lexington, Ky.
110 S. Main	Mr. S. G. Ingram	457 Beaumont Ave.
114 S. Main	Mr. J. T. Freeman/Mr. Walter Stocker	114 S. Main
116 S. Main	Mr. Don W. Robinson	562 Aspen Hall Drive
120 S. Main	Mr. Ewing Anness & Mr. Edwin Freeman	c/o Freeman Auction 300 S. Chiles Street
122 S. Main	✓ Mr. John Sullivan	122 S. Main
124 S. Main	✓ Linda & Danny Bailey	124 S. Main
128 S. Main	Mr. Ewing Anness & Mr. Edwin Freeman	c/o Freeman Auction 300 S. Chiles Street
134 S. Main	Mercer Co. National Bank	134 S. Main
200 S. Main	Mr. Frank Bradshaw	200 S. Main
202-204 S. Main	Davenport, Robinson, & Whitenack	204 S. Main
208 S. Main	Mercer Federal Savings & Loan Assn.	208 S. Main
Mercer Co. Courthouse	Mercer Co. Fiscal Court, C/o Hon. Wm. J. Sternberg, Judge/Exec.	S. Main Street
Harrodsburg Baptist Church	Harrodsburg Baptist Church	312 S. Main
United Presbyterian Church	c/o Reverend C. William Allen	509 Beaumont Avenue
The Academy, Moreland Ave.	" " "	" "
101 S. Main	Mrs. J. Herman Allen	2050 Garden Springs, Box 804, Lexington, Ky.
103-105 S. Main	Mr. Edwin Freeman	505 Beaumont Avenue
107 S. Main	Mr. Larry Rice	107 S. Main

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<u>Property</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Address</u>
109-11 S. Main Livery Stable	Mr. Gene Royalty/ Mr. Edw. Conder	109 S. Main
115-117 S. Main	Mr. John Sullivan	122 S. Main
119 S. Main	" "	" "
121 S. Main	Gail Royalty	121 S. Main
123 S. Main	B. M. Royalty	440 N. College St.
125 S. Main	Mr. John Sullivan	122 S. Main
127 S. Main	" "	" "
129 S. Main	Lucille & Thomas Graves	129 S. Main
131 S. Main	Thurman Long, Jr.	131 S. Main
201-203 S. Main	Mattie Sullivan	201 S. Main
205 S. Main	Mr. John Sullivan	122 S. Main
207 S. Main	State Bank & Trust Company	211 S. Main
211 S. Main	" "	" "
215 S. Main	Mr. Denver Wilson	766 Beaumont Ave.
219 S. Main	" "	" "
221 S. Main	Mr. Hanley Ruby	29 E. Madison St. Chicago, Ill. 60602
223 S. Main	" "	" "
225 S. Main	" "	" "
227 S. Main	" "	" "
229 S. Main	" "	" "
231-233 S. Main	" "	" "
Harrodsburg Christian Church, 305 S. Main	c/o Reverend J. Phillips Williams	475 Beaumont Ave.
Dr. C. S. Abel House 319 S. Main	Mr. James W. Barnett	319 S. Main
Albert G. Vivion House 323 S. Main	Beulah Terhune/Opal L. Taylor	323 S. Main
327 S. Main	Mrs. Lloyd Lay	327 S. Main
329 S. Main	Mrs. Ruth Sims	510 Capitol Avenue, Frankfort, Ky. 40601
Odd Fellows Lodge Beaumont Ave.	Mr. Franklin Lawson	453 Cane Run Street.

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hood molds. In addition, the Ferguson & Wilson building at 107 South Main exhibits brick corbelling and pilaster strips as well as an arched pediment with finials rising from the cornice. Nos. 121 and 123 are identical two-story buildings with segmentally arched windows and corbelled cornices (see photo 4). 129 South Main (formerly the Eagle Confectionery) is a two-story, two-bay brick structure with a projecting bracketed and dentilled cornice. Elaborate pedimented cast iron hood molds surmount the tall, narrow windows. No. 125 displays a similar cornice treatment while the windows are capped by incised stone hood molds.

The west side of the 100 block contains an equally impressive collection of 1880s-1890s structures with only one intrusion (see photo 5). The Mercer County National Bank, formerly the Mercer National Bank, was founded in 1881 on the site of old Wingfield Tavern, a local landmark dating from the early development of Main Street. Rebuilt after a fire in 1885, the bank was the handsomest building on this side of the block until the early 1970s when the facade was completely remodelled by the application of a mansard roof and pseudo-Georgian details. However, the rest of the block northward to Lexington Avenue remains virtually unaltered except for the inevitable changes made to the first floor facades. Of note are the 1892 D.L. Moore building and the 2½-story structure at 120 South Main which displays unusual brick pilasters which extend above the roofline resembling smokestacks (see photo 6). Nos. 122 and 128 are identical two-story, three-bay buildings with pedimented hood molds, round ventilators containing elaborate iron-work, and corbelled brick cornices (see photo 7). The 2½-story, three-bay building at 114 South Main (see photo 8) exhibits a paired central window with segmentally arched brick hood molds ending in corbels flanked by single windows with identical treatments. A single row of bricks set on angle extends across the second floor level. The circular ventilators have simple hood molds, and the facade is surmounted by an elaborately corbelled cornice. The Democratic Printing Company building in the Dedman Block at the northwest corner of South Main and Lexington Avenue retains the most ornate cornice on the block, being cast iron embellished with brackets, dentils, and modillions (see photo 9).

By far, the most interesting building on the north side of West Poplar is the ca. 1891 Victorian Romanesque structure that served as the offices of Drs. C.M. Wiley and W.P. Powell until 1907 (see photo 10). The

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diminutive, gable-roofed building displays three massive rounded-arch openings surmounted by steeply-pitched gabled parapets ending in stone pinnacles. Similar elements ornament the polygonal false buttresses delineating the bays. A stone band bisects the building and the wide arched openings are faced with three rows of brick surmounted by molded brick hoods. From 1907 to 1964, the building served as the Harrodsburg Public Library; since 1964 it has been used as City Hall. The single-story brick building at 116 West Poplar was built ca. 1900 and reveals segmentally arched windows and a corbelled cornice. No. 118 is a modern brick structure now serving as a child care center. Immediately east of City Hall at 108 West Poplar is a 1½-story, two-bay brick building with rounded-arch openings and brick hood molds, circular ventilators, and a corbelled cornice. No. 104-06 is a two-story, turn-of-the-century brick structure with straight-headed windows, round ventilators, and a corbelled and cast iron cornice (see photo 11).

Two-and three-story brick buildings dating from the 1860s to the 1890s comprise the east side of the 200 block of South Main (see photo 12). The only intrusion is the State Bank building (see photo 13) which was remodelled in the early 1970s in a pseudo-Georgian style. This same motif was extended to the first floor facade of the adjoining building at 207 South Main. Most of the buildings are three and four bays wide and display corbelled cornices and a variety of window treatments. The Jones Block located on the northeast corner of Main and Office Streets is among the older structures, possibly dating from as early as the 1860s. The interior was damaged by fire in 1914 and the elaborate door surround and iron balcony have been removed. Other buildings of interest in this block are No. 223, a brick structure with straight-headed windows capped by cornice strips and displaying a prominent crenellated cornice, and No. 221 which exhibits round-headed windows and an exaggerated saw-tooth brick cornice. The intricate corbelled cornice on No. 215 (Broadus, Inc.) distinguishes this building.

The most impressive building on the block and one of the more outstanding structures within the district is the Victorian Romanesque "Blue Front" (see photo 14) located on the southeast corner of Main and Poplar. Its most striking features are the corner tower and the rough stone facing around the door and window openings. Massive round arch openings pierce the lower floor and three tall round-headed windows puncture the north gabled section of main facade, while a wide segmentally arched tripartite window flanked by narrower segmentally

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arched windows pierce the south gable. Brick corbelling adorns the north side which also has a gabled section containing a rounded arch window. These gables display lattice-like geometric designs. Decorative brick panels add further variety and texture to the composition. A conical roof completes the tower, and the main roof is highlighted by a band of hexagonal shingles. At one time the second floor served as a theatre, and the auditorium, balcony, and sunburst patterns on the ceiling remain intact. The structure acquired its name from the Blue Front Department Store located in the building in more recent years.

The west side of the 200 block from Office to Short Street comprises the courthouse square. The present 1928 building, the fifth courthouse to occupy this site, is a two-story brick structure typical of the more modest Colonial Revival courthouses of the 1920s and '30s. The remainder of the west side from Short to Poplar has been drastically altered in the last five years (see photo 15). The Mercer Federal Savings and Loan building, occupying the southwest corner of Main and Short Streets, has completely obliterated the old First National Bank and the adjacent commercial structure. Formerly a two-story, three-bay building with an elaborate cast iron facade, the structure now boasts a modern "colonial" facade. No. 204 has just undergone a complete facade renovation, adding a second slick "colonial" front to the block. The only remaining non-intrusive building on this short block is No. 200 (the C.D. Tucker building), a 2½-story, three-bay arrangement with cast iron hood molds and a corbelled cornice.

Short Street, known as Lawyers' Row, runs east-west for one block between Chiles and Main Streets (see photo 16). Facing southward toward the courthouse square, this block has traditionally been the home of various law offices because of its proximity to the courthouse. At the west end of the street is the Gothic Revival St. Philips Episcopal church (listed in the National Register 31 January 1978, see photo 17). Moving eastward up Short is the C.E. Rankin building, the main part of which predates the later nineteenth century facade. Although it has undergone several alterations, the former Engine House at 123-25 Short retains the wide central bay on the ground floor. The building also housed the city police court. No. 121 (Hardin building) has suffered severe alterations by the application of a perma-stone facade to the original brick, gable-end building. No. 115-19 has been given an early twentieth century facade. The best preserved structure is 111-13 Short, a two-story, four-bay brick building dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. No. 109 has just been remodelled (see photo 16, work in progress), and the completed facade contrasts sharply with the original structure.

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Located at the southern end of the district where Beaumont and Moreland Avenues merge into South Main Street is the Oddfellows Lodge and City Hall complex (see photo 18). Constructed in 1905, the lodge is a three-story, four-bay brick building in the Classical Revival mode. Brick pilasters with Ionic capitals delineate the central bays while the corner pilasters display medallions. Rounded arch windows pierce the third floor and smaller, square-headed openings light the second level. A pediment with raking cornice displaying egg-and-dart molding completes the building. The former City Hall building abuts the lodge on the west and is a smaller, two-story, three-bay version of the lodge. City Hall moved its offices to 110 West Poplar in 1964, and the local radio station now occupies a major portion of the structure.

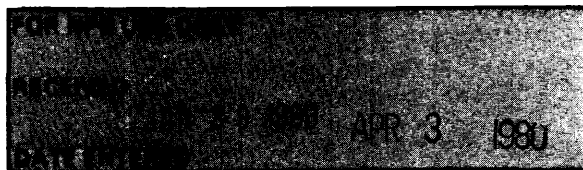
The 300 block of South Main is much less compact than the 100 and 200 blocks. This block contains a Greek Revival academy, three church structures, two late nineteenth century residences which have been converted into offices, a 1930s brick colonial building, and a 1915 commercial structure. The parking lot on the west side of the block between the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches and the parking garage behind the Baptist Church constitute the only intrusions.

"The Academy" (see photo 19), located on the west side of the block, is a two-story, three-bay Greek Revival building erected in 1847. Brick pilasters separate the bays and a massive two-story Doric portico projects from the facade. The door surround comprises a dentilled entablature surmounted by a Greek fret design. This property had been deeded to the adjacent Presbyterian Church in 1845 by Christopher C. Graham and functioned first as the Female College, later the Hogsett Academy for boys, and in 1895 it became the Harrodsburg Academy. The Harrodsburg Academy operated until a public high school system was organized. The Presbyterian congregation re-acquired the property in 1961 and currently rents apartments in the building.

Adjacent to "The Academy" is the Presbyterian Church (see photo 20). Erected in the Gothic Revival style, the brick building is five bays deep and presents a gabled facade to Main Street. Brick pilasters terminating in pinnacles divide the pointed arch, stained glass windows. The original facade contained a central pointed arch window with narrower, flanking pointed arch entrances. A square bell tower rested on the gable peak. The Civil War caused a division within the Presbyterian congregation in 1872. The Southern faction remained in this structure while the Northern group built a new church building on East Poplar; however, in 1913 the two

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factions were reunited in this structure. About this same time, the facade was remodelled by removing the central tower and erecting a new bell tower on the north corner of the building. In addition, a gabled parapet was added to the facade, the window and doors were reworked, leaving a single projecting entrance on the south, and a 2½-story brick unit was appended to the north.

Separated from the Presbyterian Church by a parking lot, the Harrodsburg Baptist Church (see photo 21) occupies the southwest corner of Main and Office Streets. Constructed in 1961, the present structure, typical of the early 1960s "colonial" style, replaces the 1899-1900 Romanesque edifice designed by R.H. Hunt which was razed for the parking lot. An 1827 brick meetinghouse situated behind the church was demolished in 1947, and a concrete parking garage now occupies this site (see photo 22).

Across from the Baptist Church on the southeast corner of Main and Office is the 1927 Harrodsburg Christian Church (see photo 23), designed by J. Harold MacDowell. This brick Colonial Revival structure replaced an unusual early Romanesque building. The Christian Church was organized in 1803 by Barton W. Stone, a dissenter of the Great Revival which swept Kentucky in the early 1800s. The church merged with the Disciples of Christ in 1838, and played a major role in the educational development of the area. Bacon College on the northern edge of Harrodsburg was operated under the auspices of the Christian Church.

Also on the east side of this block are the Albert G. Vivion House and the Dr. C.S. Abel House, both erected between 1887-88. The Vivion House is a two-story, brick structure revealing segmentally arched windows with brick hood molds and an oriel window on the second story. The Abel House is a two-story, gable-end frame building; both are now used as offices (see photo 24, extreme left).

South of the Vivion House is a ca. 1930 brick colonial house which serves as a combination of residence and commercial establishment. On the southeast corner of Main and Beaumont is a brick commercial building dating from 1915 (see photo 24, extreme right).

The boundaries have been determined so as to encompass all of Harrodsburg's late nineteenth century commercial buildings which comprise an historic entity.

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fires in 1883 succeeded in devastating the east side of the 100 block of Main and portions of the west side of the block. Another serious fire in 1890 destroyed much of the northern end of the east side of the 200 block and spread down the north side of West Poplar to St. Philips Episcopal Church. Most Harrodsburg merchants rebuilt within a few years after the fires so that by 1900 the present streetscape was fairly well established. At the turn of the century, Harrodsburg's population was 4,000, and the town boasted among its achievements two telephone systems, an electric light plant, a water system, planing mills, flouring mills, an ice factory, a distillery, a wholesale grocery, two banks, and two weekly newspapers.

Today, although several key buildings have been severely altered or destroyed, the district retains a concentration of significant buildings which comprise a relatively unbroken and visually rich streetscape. In addition, the merchants and local government officials have expressed an interest in working to preserve the district.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED	JAN 29 1980
DATE ENTERED	APR 3 1980

Harrodsburg Commercial District
Mercer County, Kentucky

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